



Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All (Richard Jackson Books (Atheneum Hardcover))

By Peter Catalanotto

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It's a factual face-off in this superhero picture book from all-star Peter Catalanotto.

Question Boy wants answers. He lives for them. But none of the town's action heroes—Oil Man, Paperboy, Police Woman—can satisfy Question Boy's heroic need to *know*!

Enter Little Miss Know-It-All. She has an answer for every who-what-where-when-and-how...and what she doesn't know she simply makes up.

And what about you? Ready for a wrangle? Keen on a quibble? Then come along to the town park to cheer the two of them on! Vibrant, rich illustrations merge fantasy with reality in this exploration of questions, answers, and what it means to be right.

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Editorial Review

Review

★ Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All

Peter Catalanotto. S&S/Atheneum/Jackson, \$16.99 (40p) ISBN 978-1-4424-0670-4

In Catalanotto's surreal suburbia, many of the residents are costumed superheroes—there's Garbage Man and the duo of Mailman and Paperboy to name a few. But their grownup powers are useless in the face of the title characters' Kryptonite-like relentlessness. Question Boy sends people fleeing with his endless interrogations ("Could you fit a whale in there?" he asks Garbage Man of his truck. "How about a brontosaurus?"), while Little Miss Know-It-All evokes a similar response with her nonstop spewing of knowledge, accurate or not ("Hippos run faster than people! Hamsters blink only one eye at a time!"). When these two go toe to toe in a city park (complete with references to classic Star Trek and The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly), it's more than a comic smackdown. Catalanotto (Ivan the Terrier) slyly uses the duel to comment on the disintegration of civil discourse, the importance of connecting to others as individuals, and the possibilities for common ground through simply listening. A story that starts out as a wonderfully weird comedy ends up a surprisingly nuanced lesson in the art of being human. Ages 4–8.

--*Publishers Weekly*, November 21, 2011, ***STAR**

Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All

By Peter Catalanotto

(Atheneum; ISBN: 9781442406704 9; February 2012; Spring catalog p.15)

An irresistible force meets an immovable object with hilarious results. The superheroes that populate this town are no match for Question Boy. With his insatiable need to know, he can make Garbage Man, Oil Man and Wonder Waitress run for cover to escape his incessant queries. Then he meets Little Miss Know-It-All, who answers all his questions and then some, peppering him with one factoid after another until he is supine on the grass, seemingly defeated. Dizzy with victory, she starts to leave in triumph, when Question Boy raises the most unanswerable question of all, the all-purpose "Why," screaming it over and over until she is driven to give the only possible response. Used most often by exasperated adults, her answer settles the matter convincingly, at least for the present. Thus the contest is done, and to the cheers of the onlookers, the two rivals walk off together as friends. These precocious characters are instantly recognizable, and Catalanotto brings them to life with tenderness and humor in rapid-paced action and dialogue. The text, boldfaced and widely spaced, is set in the delightfully and appropriately named "CC Yada Yada Yada." Extra-bright and colorful watercolor paintings of various sizes, shapes and perspective perfectly complement and enhance the tale. Grownups beware. Youngsters might have their own questions and answers after this romp.

Kirkus Reviews, January 15, 2012 ***STARRED**

Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All

by Peter Catalanotto;

illus. by the author

Preschool, Primary Jackson/Atheneum 40 pp.

Young children do seem to have a superhuman capacity for interrogation. Catalanotto takes this concept and flies with it to create his intrepid caped crusader for whom no question is too daunting or trivial to ask. Patrolling a residential neighborhood, rendered in verdant sun-drenched watercolors, Question Boy takes on and bests one costumed everyday hero after another. For example, while Garbage Man (bedecked in head-to-toe spandex with a giant red *G* on his chest) is “busy freeing the city of filth and rubbish,” QB fires increasingly impossible queries at him—“How much stuff can you fit in your truck?” “More than an elephant?” “Can you fit a whale in there?”—until the outmatched sanitation engineer has no choice but to flee. Obviously, parents of young children will identify with his plight—and the plight of Police Woman, Mechanic Man, Wonder Waitress, etc.—but, happily, the book’s humor is not adults-only. The caricatured scenarios build to an absurdist height when from the depths of the park comes, finally, a worthy opponent who has all the answers and then some. When Question Boy and the tiara-and-tutu-clad Little Miss Know-It-All face off against each other, it’s the most satisfying showdown since...well, there really is no comparison.

--*The Horn Book*, March/April 2012

About the Author

Peter Catalanotto has written fourteen books for children, including *Ivan the Terrier*; *Matthew A.B.C.*; *Daisy 1,2,3*; *Kitten Red, Yellow, Blue*; and *Emily’s Art*. He lives in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bert Ferguson:

Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All (Richard Jackson Books (Atheneum Hardcover)) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to place every word into joy arrangement in writing Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All (Richard Jackson Books (Atheneum Hardcover)) nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can drawn you into completely new stage of crucial pondering.

Dana Martin:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All (Richard Jackson Books (Atheneum Hardcover)) guide written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, dripping every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still skepticism Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All (Richard Jackson Books (Atheneum Hardcover)) as good book not simply by the cover but also with the content. This is one reserve that can break don't assess book by its cover, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

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